

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TOKYO 07080 140326Z

42

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 AGR-10 L-03 SP-02 /039 W

----- 125675

R 140220Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9158

UNCLAS TOKYO 7080

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: FOREIGN RACE HORSE RESTRICTIONS

REF: STATE 102716; TOKYO 3333

1. EMBASSY OFFICER HAS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH PROBLEM REGARDING IMPORTATION OF FOREIGN RACE HORSES INTO JAPAN WITH MAF AND JRA. SUBJECTS DISCUSSED INCLUDED 4 MILLION YEN PER HEAD DUTY ON IMPORTED RACE HORSES AND LIMITED NUMBER OF RACES IN WHICH FOREIGN HORSES CAN PARTICIPATE.

2. MR. FUNABIKI, DIRECTOR, HORSE RACE SUPERVISORY DIVISION, MAF, EXPLAINED SITUATION AS FOLLOWS:

(A) CURRENTLY, 3,597 HORSE BREEDERS IN JAPAN, ONE PERCENT OF BREEDERS HAVE 20 OR MORE BROODMARES, 82 PERCENT HAVE 5 MARES OR LESS. FEW ARE OWNER-BREEDERS AND MAJORITY ARE FARMERS WHO RELY COMPLETELY ON INCOME FROM HORSE BREEDING; 45 PERCENT LOCATED IN HIDAKA REGION OF HOKKAIDO.

(B) AS PURSES HAVE CONTINUED TO RISE, PER HORSE AVERAGE EARNINGS HAVE BEEN THE LARGEST IN WORLD. CONSEQUENTLY, DEMAND FOR RACE HORSES INCREASED AND PRICES PAID TO BREEDERS BECAME HIGHER EACH YEAR WHICH ACCELERATED THE NUMBER OF HORSES BRED, RESULTING IN AN OVERPRODUCTION OF RACE HORSES.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TOKYO 07080 140326Z

(C) THE NUMBER OF RACES PER YEAR ARE DEFINED BYLAW AND

THERE MUST BE A LIMITATION OF RUNNERS SINCE THE NUMBER OF STARTING GATE SPACES DETERMINES THE POSSIBLE NUMBER OF RUNNERS PER YEAR, ACCORDING TO MAF.

3. REGARDING RELAXATION OF DUTY, MAF STATED THAT DUTIES ARE UNDER JURISDICTION OF MOF. MAF WOULD LIKE TO DECREBICYIIVHDKJ#BUT UNTIL THE DOMESTIC PRODUCTION SITUATION EASES, NO RECOMMENDATION FOR RELAXATION IS CONTEMPLATED.

4. FYI, PRODUCTION OF RACING HORSES IN 1975 TOTALED 11,651 HEAD INCLUDING 8,113 THOROUGH BREDS AND 3,538 ANGLO-ARAB. IMPORTS IN 1975 WERE AS FOLLOWS:

	HORSES IMPORTED FOR RACING PURPOSES 1/ (HEADS)	HORSES IMPORTED FOR BREEDING PURPOSES 2/ TOTAL
USA	12	70
UK	8	31
FRANCE	1	31
AUSTRALIA	-	8
OTHERS	-	19
TOTAL	21	164

1/ SUBJECT TO IMPORT DUTY OF 4 MILLION YEN PER HEAD.

2/ DUTY FREE

5. JRA OFFICIALS SAY THEY OFFICIALLY TEND TO SIDE WITH OWNERS THAT THE DUTY SHOULD BE REDUCED. HOWEVER, THE GENERAL FEELING IS THAT THEY ACTUALLY SIDES WITH BREEDERS AND MAF.

6. ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE OUTCOME: IN VIEW OF THE NATURE OF HORSE BREEDING IN JAPAN IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT PROBLEM WILL BE RESOLVED ANYTIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE. CONCENTRATION OF HORSE BREEDERS IN ONE PREFECTURE WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE MOST POWERFUL AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE IN JAPAN (HOKUREN) LENDS CREDENCE TO THIS OUTLOOK. ADDITIONALLY, THE PROBLEM OF OVERPRODUCTION IS ONE WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO COPE WITH COMPLETELY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TOKYO 07080 140326Z

UM EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH MAF-JRA AS APPROPRIATE.
HODGSON

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HORSES, IMPORT CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TOKYO07080
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760186-1141
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760551/aaaabrjr.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 102716, 76 TOKYO 3333
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by wolfsd>; APPROVED <24 JAN 2005 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN RACE HORSE RESTRICTIONS
TAGS: ETRD, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006